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AGRIVIEW

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Saskatchewan Pastures Program update

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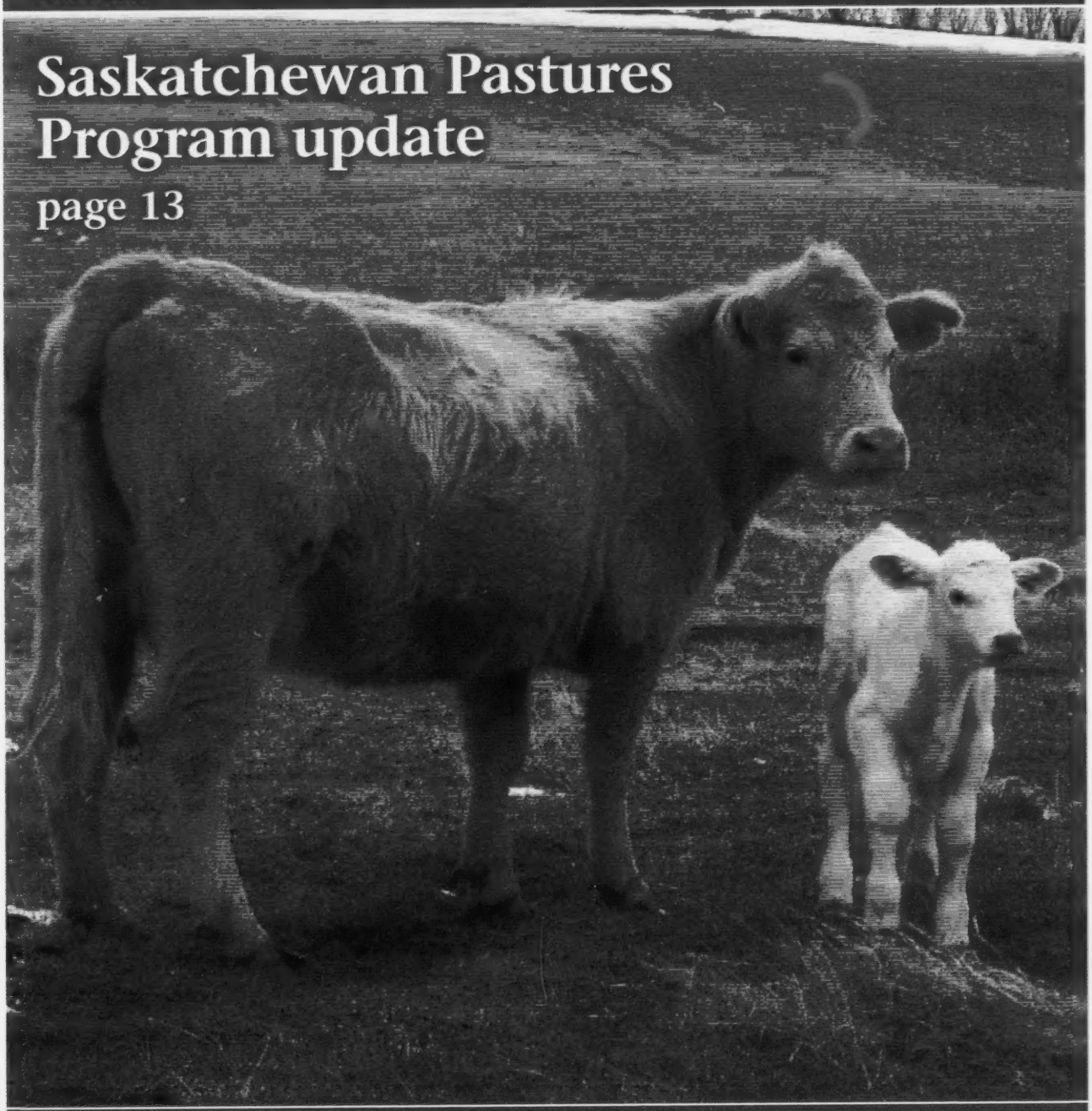

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Saskatchewan Agriculture

Minister's Message

Since forming government in 2007, we have continually worked to improve the Crop Insurance Program. In 2008, we undertook an extensive review of the program, which resulted in 12 new program improvements introduced in 2009. We made further improvements in 2010 and 2011. In our first term as government, we introduced the four largest Crop Insurance budgets and highest average coverage levels in the history of the program.

This trend is continuing with the 2012 Crop Insurance Program, which includes another year of record provincial funding, record coverage levels and numerous other program improvements. The 2012 Provincial Crop Insurance budget is a record high $177 million. Coverage levels are increasing to a record high $174 per acre, on average. This is nearly double the average coverage levels offered to producers under the previous government in 2007.

In addition, the 2012 Crop Insurance Program will include an Unseeded Acreage Benefit of up to $100 per eligible acre. Producers will now have the option to supplement the $70 per eligible acre Unseeded Acreage Benefit by purchasing either $15 or $30 per acre in additional unseeded acreage coverage. In addition, the Unseeded Acreage Benefit calculation has also been simplified.

Crop Insurance will now also provide coverage to commercial fruit growers for the replacement of saskatoon, sour cherry and haskap fruit trees.

Yield cushioning is also being extended to include forage crops. This feature limits the impact of consecutive poor growing seasons, such as excess moisture or drought, on a producer's coverage level.

In 2012 establishment benefit values will also increase from $20 to $25 per acre for oats, canary seed, fall rye, spring rye and triticale.

Overall, this year's program will provide more options and improved coverage for producers. As a result, there will be no AgriRecovery program for weather-related disasters in 2012.

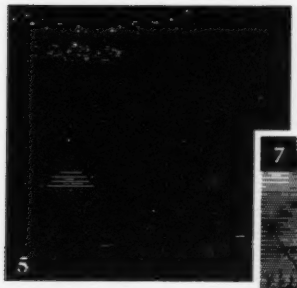
With this year's program improvements, as well as those we made during our first term in government, I encourage all producers to consider enrolling in Crop Insurance in 2012.

Sincerely,

Bob Bjornerud

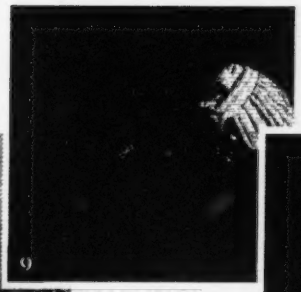
Bob Bjornerud

STORY SNAPSHOTS

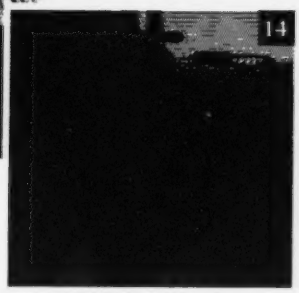


Wheat Summit

Ethioplan mustard



Irrigation scheduling



Agriculture Safety Week

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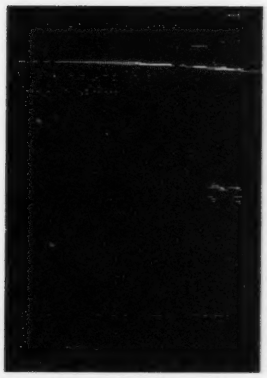


Cover: A Charolais-cross and her calf taken near Langham, SK. Photograph of "Mom and baby" courtesy Amie Link.

Saskatchewan Agriculture

AGRIVIEW is published by the Communications Branch of Saskatchewan Agriculture for Saskatchewan farmers and farm and food organizations. **For more information, call 306-787-5160 or e-mail agriview@gov.sk.ca.**
To view this publication online, visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/programs-services.

Agriculture events in West-Central Saskatchewan

by John Ippolito, PAg
Regional Crop Specialist, Kindersley
Regional Services Branch

Grain producers in west-central Saskatchewan always find something interesting at the Grain Growers Symposium and the West-Central Ag Outlook meeting.

This year, these events are being delivered with a slightly different focus. They will have more emphasis on cereal grain marketing in the new marketing freedom environment.

The 2012 Grain Grower Symposium will be held at Rosetown on March 15. The theme of this meeting is *Capitalizing on Change*, and the featured speaker, Murad Al-Katib, president and CEO of Alliance Grain Traders, will provide his thoughts on opportunities in the global agri-food industry, including some of his company's new initiatives. Other presenters will cover topics related to marketing freedom, such as price discovery and risk management, and developing marketing plans and marketing programs from grain marketing agencies.

The West-Central Ag Outlook at Kindersley on March 21 will provide producers with a market outlook for grains, oilseeds and special crops. There will also be a significant portion of the event devoted to marketing cereal grains, covering such areas as price discovery and price risk management.

Both events are supported by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and numerous industry sponsors. In addition to the information provided by the speakers, there is lots of opportunity for networking with other producers and the sponsors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca; or
- Contact the Kindersley Regional Office at (306) 463-5513.

CROP OPPORTUNITY AND SCOTT RESEARCH UPDATE

by Sherrilyn Phelps, M.Sc., PAg, CCA
Regional Crops Specialist, North Battleford
Regional Services Branch

On Thursday, March 8, the Western Applied Research Corporation (WARC), in partnership with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture and SaskCanola, is holding the annual Crop Opportunity and Scott Research Update. This event will provide opportunities for agronomists, industry representatives, producers and researchers to discuss the latest information and technology pertaining to crop production.

The latest research and demonstration results from WARC will be showcased. Projects such as the effectiveness of seed primers, increasing seed-placed urea with wheat, foliar fungicides in cereals, integrated weed control in lentil, and camelina seeding dates will be discussed. Canola research on inputs to maximize yields, varieties for straight-combining and the effect of plant populations will also be shown.

Other topics that will be discussed during the day include: preharvest applications of glyphosate and understanding maximum pesticide residue limits; impact of seeding rates, seeding speeds and row spacing on crop yield; new and novel fertilizer products; and understanding clubroot. Farm management topics for the day include an overview of the future of grain handling and transportation in Canada, the economics of grain storage options, as well as an outline of the Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI).

This year, the popular Global Market Outlook will be presented by Greg Kostal from Kostal Ag Consulting.

This all-day event will begin with registration at 8 a.m. at the Alex Dillabough Centre in Battleford.

TO REGISTER OR TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

- Call the Saskatchewan Agriculture North Battleford Regional Office at (306) 446-7964; or
- Visit the Western Applied Research Corporation website at www.warc.ca.

Plan to attend the Crop Opportunity and Scott Research Update on March 8.

Methods for controlling Richardson's ground squirrel

by Sean Miller, PAg
Integrated Pest Management Agrologist
Crops Branch

The Richardson's ground squirrel, commonly known as the "gopher," is a perennial problem for producers.

Controlling the pests each year is necessary to prevent a build-up of gopher populations. Using all viable options (chemical and non-chemical) to control gopher numbers is important to keep pest damage below economic levels while still minimizing any negative effect on the environment.

A pest control program that includes rodenticides, but also uses non-chemical means, will assist with long-term management. Non-chemical control methods include trapping, shooting, installing raptor platforms to attract predatory birds to nest, and maintaining vegetation in pastures or forage fields at a height greater than six inches, whenever possible. Gophers avoid taller vegetation because it prevents them from seeing approaching predators.

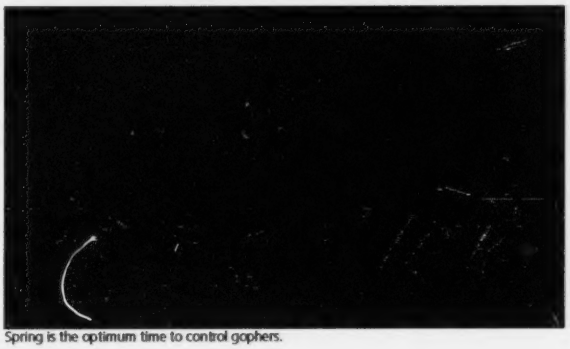
Rodenticides are the most effective method of controlling the pest over large areas. Proper timing of bait placement is very important and early spring is the best time because the gophers emerge from their winter burrows in search of food. The first to come above ground are the males; females follow a few weeks later. The males will have usually consumed any underground food stores, leaving little available for the females, making them more likely to consume the baits. Controlling the reproductive females will have a greater effect on reducing populations. Even better results can be obtained from baiting before green up of vegetation in the spring.

When controlling any pest, it is important to think about personal and environmental safety. Always read and follow the label restrictions. It is important to prevent the accidental poisoning of non-target animals. This is in the producer's best interests, as there are a number of gopher predators that should be protected.

While not all management options will work in all areas or are a good fit with all farming operations, it is important to consider all non-chemical options as part of a long-term gopher management strategy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Refer to the fact sheets *Control of Richardson's Ground Squirrel* and *Integrated Pest Management for Richardson's Ground Squirrels*, available on the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.



Spring is the optimum time to control gophers.

INDUSTRY RIPE FOR GROWTH AT WHEAT SUMMIT

It's a story that's all over the nightly news almost as often as the daily market prices: the story of a new Saskatchewan that leads the nation in everything from population growth to manufacturing and exports.

On Feb. 1 and 2, the Ministry of Agriculture proudly hosted a Wheat Summit in Saskatoon. The summit brought together industry stakeholders from around the world to discuss Canadian wheat research, variety development, production and marketing.

Recently, wheat has been less profitable for producers to grow, compared to other options such as canola and pulses. Yet increasing global demand for food makes it crucial that new investments are made in wheat research.

Premier Brad Wall announced $10 million in new funding for wheat-related research over five years at the Wheat Summit. This funding will go toward research projects that accelerate the development of wheat varieties and improve yield, quality and tolerance to disease and extreme weather conditions, and will be added to the Agriculture Development Fund administered by Saskatchewan Agriculture.

"It's time to put wheat back on top again," Wall said. "Early varieties like Marquis made farming worthwhile in all but the most inhospitable parts of the prairies. It allowed the prairies to become the breadbasket of the British Empire for the next 100 years. It's time to recapture that leadership, so Saskatchewan can help feed a hungry planet."

"We have some of the best producers in the world in Saskatchewan and we are committed to investing in research to address their needs," Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud said. "This increased research funding will lead to new wheat varieties that will ultimately create long-term benefits for Saskatchewan farmers."

The summit demonstrated the province's expansive and diverse research capacity and led to many encouraging discussions among stakeholders, from growers, researchers and holders of germplasm to plant science research and development companies.

It is hoped that new investment, strategic partnerships, and an over-arching coordinated, cooperative approach to wheat varietal research will emerge as a result of the summit.

Premier Brad Wall addressing atendees at the 2012 Wheat Summit.

Assessing winter wheat stands this spring

by Daphne Cruise, PAg
Regional Crops Specialist, Moose Jaw
Regional Services Branch

Assessing winter wheat stands this spring will be important to determine crop health, winter survival and spring management.

In order to survive the winter, the wheat must receive snow for insulation so take note of areas without adequate snow cover. In the spring, finding brown dried leaves does not necessarily indicate winter kill. One to two weeks of spring growth under warm temperatures is needed before a final estimate should be made of winter damage. The key to survival is the growth of new white roots from the crown. Leaves developed the previous fall can be killed off without reducing plant survival. New leaves and roots will generate as long as the crown remains alive. If the crop starts to green up in the spring and then dies back, the crowns were probably damaged and were unable to produce new roots.

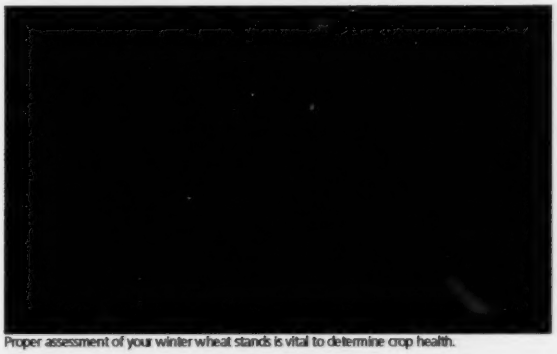
Optimum plant stand is 20 to 30 plants per square foot; however, a thin stand of five to seven plants per square foot can be worth saving – with timely weed control and early application of spring nitrogen – due to winter wheat's ability to tiller. When assessing winter wheat stands, the main diseases to watch for this spring are Barley Yellow Dwarf Virus, Wheat Streak Mosaic and Stripe Rust.

Spring fertilization should take place as soon as the soil has thawed and is able to support equipment. Some winter annual weeds may have escaped fall herbicide applications and should be controlled prior to bolting. Be sure to refer to *The Guide to Crop Protection* for appropriate products and crop staging.

If the decision is to re-seed, some agronomic factors must be considered. Broadleaf crops seeded on land that was treated with 2,4-D in the fall (and even more so in early spring) can be very sensitive to residues. Re-seeding to another wheat crop should be avoided due to the risk of Wheat Streak Mosaic Virus.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your Saskatchewan Agriculture Regional Crops Specialist or call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377; or
- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.



Proper assessment of your winter wheat stands is vital to determine crop health.

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE SOIL TESTING

by Ken Panchuk, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Soils
Crops Branch

Soil testing is the best way to achieve balanced plant nutrition in your fields.

It is also a valuable tool for crop planning and for crop management. Soil testing on a regular basis establishes crop nutrient needs for the growing season, monitors changes in soil nutrient levels and measures other soil characteristics such as pH, organic matter and salinity.

Regular soil testing is the best way to determine nutrient needs for your crop.

A nutrient management plan built on soil testing, helps meet long-term crop needs economically, as well as protects the environment. Soil testing is also an important step for the implementation of the Four "R" Nutrient Stewardship Program:

- the **right** source of nutrients,
- applied at the **right** rate,
- at the **right** time; and
- in the **right** place.

Nutrients required for healthy plant growth and development come from residual soil nutrients, mineralization, and added nutrients and manure. Achieving a realistic yield goal is dependent on adding the appropriate level of nutrients to correct deficiencies.

Soil test laboratories measure the amount of nutrients available for crop uptake at a given point in time or determine a nutrient supply rate, as in the case with the root simulator technology. The soil analysis data is then used to make nutrient recommendations for the planned crop, based on the yield target that is calculated from an estimate of available water, and cropping history.

Continued use of the same soil testing lab will allow you to monitor nutrient levels over the long-term, looking for rising or falling trends. This is accomplished by having several years of soil test data for each field.

Accurate recommendations require accurate soil samples. A truly representative sample for each field must be the main focus of soil sampling. Samples are generally taken in random locations across the field (random sampling), or from a smaller area of the field considered typical (benchmark sampling). Geo-referencing the sample location with Global Positioning System (GPS) is another practise that allows operators to return to the same representative area for each field.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact a Regional Crop Specialist in your area: or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

Ethiopian mustard – A new crop for Saskatchewan

by Venkata Vakulabharanam, MSc, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Oilseed Crops
Crops Branch

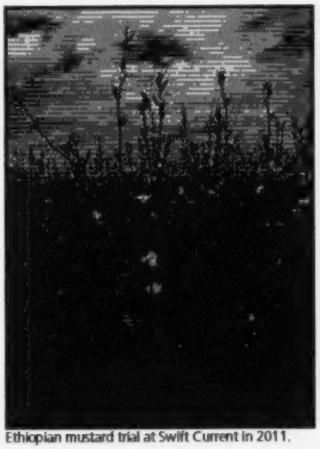
Brassica carinata (carinata), also called Ethiopian mustard, is being developed as an industrial oilseed crop in the Prairies as part of an initiative, called the Mustard 21 Initiative, to increase the value of the mustard industry.

European countries with semi-arid climatic conditions are also using this crop for energy (biodiesel and biomass). Carinata's well-developed root system provides natural drought tolerance. Its seed yield is similar to open-pollinated canola, and its seed weight is higher than canola. Pods are non-shattering and are suitable for harvest under dry conditions. Carinata is also tolerant to blackleg, alternaria, insect pests and heat. This crop is being developed as a platform for biodiesel, biojet fuel and biopesticides.

Saskatchewan's Agriculture Development Fund (ADF) has funded research projects for the development of carinata as an industrial crop since 2007. Researchers at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Scott and Swift Current) studied agronomic aspects of carinata from 2008 to 2010 and have concluded that the crop responds to nutrients similar to yellow mustard and canola.

They also advise a seeding rate of seven to 14 pounds per acre for optimum yields and crop maturity. Research at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's Saskatoon Research Centre has developed carinata lines with shortened days to harvest that are seven days later than canola.

One of the objectives of Mustard 21 is to develop carinata as a dedicated industrial oilseed mustard crop. Agrisoma Biosciences Inc., the commercial partner for Mustard 21, recently announced a limited acre production contract for southern Saskatchewan and Alberta. They are targeting about 5,000 to 10,000 acres for 2012. Their contract offer includes a maximum of 160 acres per farm priced at $12.50 per bushel (50 pounds) FOB on-farm for total production with a $40 per acre new crop incentive paid upon on-farm volume confirmation and sample collection. Their seed price is $5 per pound.


Ethiopian mustard trial at Swift Current in 2011.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Agrisoma Biosciences Inc. at productioninfo@agrisoma.com;
- Trevor Anderson (Frontier, SK) at (306) 296-7434; or
- Bob Hood (Regina, SK) at (306) 526-8871.

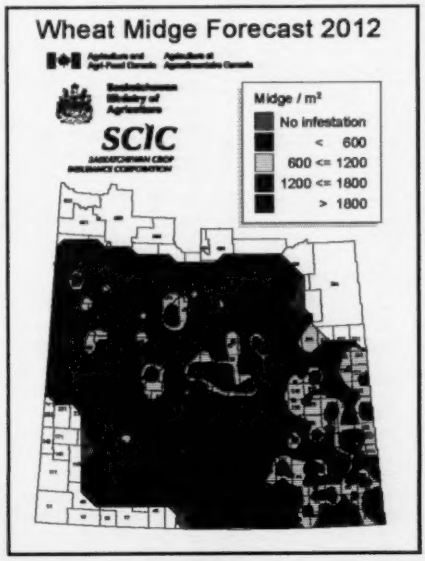
SASKATCHEWAN 2012 WHEAT MIDGE FORECAST

by Scott Hartley, PAg
Provincial Specialist, Insect and Vertebrate Pests
Crops Branch

The 2012 Wheat Midge Forecast map indicates a pattern of infestation similar to previous years with pockets of severe infestations scattered throughout the Dark Brown and Black Soil Zones, from southeast to northwest Saskatchewan.

Eastern regions appear to have the most concentrated areas of higher populations of wheat midge. A significant area of high risk was also identified in the Central Region, extending from Rural Municipalities 279 through to 283 and 313. The distribution of wheat midge, as illustrated in the 2012 map, is based on viable, unparasitized cocoons from 420 samples collected in the 2011 fall survey.

Aside from insecticide control, non-chemical management options for wheat midge include planting a non-susceptible cereal crop (e. g. oats, barley), a broadleaf crop (e. g. canola, pulse) or if spring wheat is planned as part of a current rotation in 2012, producers can consider sowing midge tolerant wheat.



Midge tolerant wheat is available as varietal blends (VB) of Canadian Western Red Spring or Canadian Western Extra Strong midge tolerant varieties.

For information on midge tolerant wheat visit www. midgetolerantwheat.ca. For information on varietal blends available for 2012 visit www.midgetolerantwheat.ca/farmers/seed-varieties.aspx.

The wheat midge forecast map gives an estimate of risk on a regional basis. Actual wheat midge populations will vary from field to field. Climatic conditions in the spring, mainly temperature and precipitation, will determine the extent and timing of midge during the growing season.

Areas of infestation, indicating over 600 wheat midge per square metre, may result in significant damage and yield loss. In areas indicating levels greater than 1,200 midge per square metre, producers growing conventional spring wheat are advised to include the cost of insecticide application as part of their 2012 budget.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit our website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/maps_section.

BSE testing – still essential for Canadian cattle producers

by Dr. Wendy Wilkins, DVM, PhD
Disease Surveillance Veterinarian
Livestock Branch

Bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), also known as mad-cow disease, is a progressive, fatal disease of the nervous system of cattle. As a result, BSE surveillance and control programs have been put in place in many countries around the world, including Canada.

BSE has been a reportable disease in Canada since 1990. A surveillance program was established in 1992 in which the brains of high-risk cattle are tested for the disease. This includes animals over 30 months of age that are dead, down, dying or diseased or any cattle showing symptoms consistent with BSE.

Surveillance is one of many BSE-related actions Canada has implemented to manage BSE. The surveillance program's objectives are to determine and monitor the level of BSE present in Canada and to confirm the effectiveness of these actions. Besides helping to protect humans and animals from the disease, Canada's BSE program is essential for maintaining access to international markets for beef and cattle exports and for accessing new ones.

The number of tests and the design of the BSE testing program in Canada have always followed the guidelines set out by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and will continue to do so into the future. Canada has committed to testing a minimum of 30,000 animals annually; Saskatchewan is expected to contribute approximately 7,500 of these tests each year. Cattle producers play a key role in this surveillance program since they are best placed to monitor the health of their herds and spot any animals that should be tested. While submission of cattle for BSE testing is voluntary, producers have a responsibility to protect their industry by participating in Canada's BSE testing program. Without this participation, the program cannot succeed and the access to key foreign markets may be in jeopardy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Producers are encouraged to immediately report animals qualifying for testing through the BSE surveillance hotline at 1-866-400-4244, their local veterinarian or their local Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) office.

EFFECTS OF COVER CROP FERTILIZATION ON UNDER-SOWN FORAGE CROPS

by Gary Kruger, PAg
Irrigation Agrologist
Irrigation Branch

Research has demonstrated that zero tillage provides effective protection for young forage seedlings from blowing soil. The technique also maintains the moisture status of the surface soil to support germination of the forage seeds.

For zero tillage to work, standing stubble is required. Since growers often plant forages on cultivated fallow, cover crops are commonly used to protect these forage seedlings.

The Irrigation Crop Diversification Corporation, in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, conducts field demonstrations on irrigated fields throughout the province. One project in the southwest area of the province produced a very logical but unexpected observation this past summer.

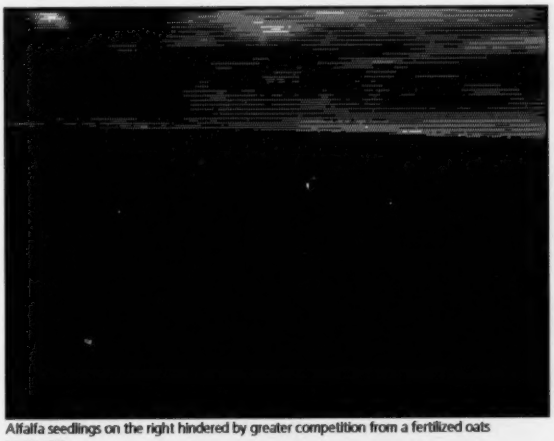
The grower applied a strip of banded phosphate at 100 lb P_2O_5/ac on a fallow field in late fall, 2010. An adjacent check strip with no fertilizer was positioned next to the banded fertilizer strip. An oat cover crop was planted in the spring of 2011 and alfalfa was sown in a crisscross pattern at a shallow depth after the oat cover crop was seeded. Both the cover crop and the alfalfa established well during the growing season of 2011.

The accompanying photograph shows the oat growth was more vigorous where the phosphorus was banded. The more aggressive growth of oats hindered the establishment and growth of the alfalfa seedlings. In comparison, the alfalfa plants on the unfertilized headlands of the forage field were larger and more vigorous than those on the phosphorus fertilized portions of the new seeding. The phosphorus fertilizer improved the competitiveness of the oats cover crop, which reduced the ability of the alfalfa seedlings to establish within the oat crop.

The take-home message is: when planting a cover crop in conjunction with a forage crop, the forage will establish more effectively when phosphorus fertilization is delayed until after establishment of the forage. Banding of fertilizer prior to seeding a forage crop is still an effective fertilization strategy for forages sown without a cover crop.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit the Saskatchewan Agriculture website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, or
- Contact Gary Kruger at gary.kruger@gov.sk.ca or (306) 867-5524.



Alfalfa seedlings on the right hindered by greater competition from a fertilized oats cover crop.

Irrigation scheduling: the most crop per drop

by Rory Cranston, AAg
Irrigation Agrologist
Irrigation Branch

Profitable irrigated crop production relies upon irrigation scheduling to produce the most "crop per drop".

A decision to irrigate should be based on five factors:

- Soil moisture status;
- Soil texture;
- Crop stage;
- Crop water demand; and
- Weather forecast.

Irrigators should keep the **soil moisture status** of their land between field capacity and the "irrigation threshold". Field capacity is the amount of water a soil will hold when saturated and the "irrigation threshold" is the soil moisture level below which yields are negatively impacted. Using the "feel" method is an easy way to estimate soil moistures status. More information on the feel method can be found in the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture Irrigation Scheduling Manual. Use a Dutch auger or soil probe to check current soil moisture at all depths.

Soil texture determines how much and how often water can be applied. A sandy soil has a rapid infiltration rate and a low water-holding capacity, requiring irrigators to irrigate often and heavily if needed. Clay soils have high water-holding capacity and low infiltration rates making them prone to runoff with heavy irrigation.

There are certain **crop stages** where irrigation should be avoided. For example, avoid irrigation during the flowering period of canola to reduce sclerotinia infection risk. A good strategy would be to fill your soil water profile to field capacity prior to flowering, and then only irrigate to keep soil moisture above 50 per cent of field capacity during the flowering period.

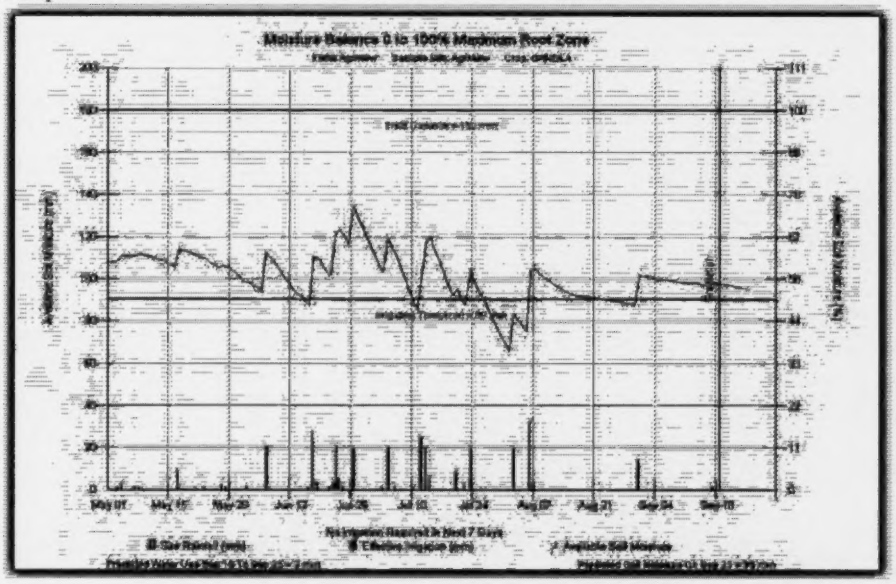
Crop water demand will change throughout the season and from crop to crop. A recently seeded crop will use little water per day, whereas a mature crop could use seven to eight millimeters of water on a hot day in July. To keep up with crop demand during high-use periods an inch of water would be required every three days.

The **weather forecast** predicts next week's crop water demand. The daily maximum and minimum temperature, the maximum and minimum relative humidity as well as wind speed and solar radiation will determine the daily water use of a crop.

New technology now allows irrigators to make more informed decisions by using a proven irrigation scheduling program called the Alberta Irrigation Management Model (AIMM). The program is a free and simple software package designed exclusively for use at the farm level to help irrigators schedule their irrigation.

AIMM simulates growing conditions and water-use for 52 different crops. Irrigators using this system can generate site-specific predictions for their fields by inputting their own farm information. Inputs include: soil type, crop type, seeding date, irrigation system specifics and local weather information. AIMM will use this information to report in graphical and tabular form, "year to date" soil moisture conditions and crop water use. It will also predict crop water requirements for the near future.

Below is an example of an AIMM graph. This graph shows the moisture-use and the soil moisture profile for a canola crop from May 1 to Sept. 18 on a field with a loam soil texture. The staggered line represents available soil moisture. The left side of the graph presents available soil moisture as millimeters (mm). The right presents soil moisture as a percentage of field capacity. The top blue horizontal line represents field capacity. The lower blue horizontal line represents the "irrigation threshold", below which the crop yield begins to suffer. Along the bottom axis, the blue vertical lines represent rain events, the green vertical lines represent irrigation events and the red vertical line represents the current date. When the staggered line crosses the current date line it becomes a prediction of the water use for the next seven days. The predicted water use is also presented in numerical form in the bottom left corner.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation Branch at (306) 867-5500; or

Visit the Ministry website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

Intensive Livestock Operation (ILO) Environmental Program DEADLINE March 31, 2012.

Financial assistance is available to intensive livestock operations to help restore pens and manure storage systems damaged by excess moisture in 2010 and 2011. Assistance is available for ILOs that do not qualify for assistance under the Provincial Disaster Assistance Program. Application deadline is March 31, 2012, and projects must be completed by December 31, 2012. For more information, visit the Ministry of Agriculture website, www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca, or call toll-free 1-866-947-9113.

Land for Sale by Tender

Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture

COMPLETED TENDERS AND 5 PER CENT DEPOSIT MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE APPROPRIATE MINISTRY REGIONAL OFFICE, AS LISTED BELOW, BY 12:00 NOON APRIL 3, 2012

Additional tender forms and eligibility criteria may be obtained from Ministry of Agriculture Regional Offices, Rural Municipality offices or online at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca

Conditions of Tender

1. Tenders must clearly indicate the land that is being bid on and the amount being bid. Tender forms are available for this purpose. Tenders must be enclosed in a sealed envelope and mailed or delivered to the appropriate Regional Office as shown below. The envelope should be clearly marked "Land Tender".

2. Tender bidders are responsible for meeting any requirements of Part VI of *The Saskatchewan Farm Security Act*.

3. A certified cheque, money order or bank draft, payable to the Ministry of Agriculture for five percent of the total tender must accompany the tender. Tenders submitted without certified funds will not be considered.

4. In addition to the highest bid for any individual parcel, the Ministry of Agriculture will consider bids that provide the highest aggregate price for any combination of parcels.

5. The Ministry of Agriculture reserves the right to reject any bid. Where the highest bid is received, the bidder may be provided with an opportunity to meet the listed minimum market value.

6. An agreement for sale and transfer will be prepared in the name of the successful bidder. The spouse of the successful bidder can be added to the agreement for sale and transfer upon receipt of a written request.

7. The successful bidder has 20 days, from the effective date of the agreement for sale, to provide the balance in cash and to complete the purchase. The deposit will be forfeited if the successful bidder does not finalize the agreement for sale.

8. It is up to regular the tiler with Information Services Corporation and the responsibility of the purchaser and are in addition to the bid price.

9. All lands, together with any fixtures and improvements are sold "as is". The bidder is solely responsible for determining the value and condition of land being sold, which are exclusive of improvements, and satisfying land use, environmental conditions and any other information pertaining to land being sold.

10. The Ministry of Agriculture may withhold or withdraw any land from sale at any time prior to the delivery of a signed agreement for sale.

11. Where land is not sold, a short term permit on the land may be offered to the highest bidder at Crown rental plus GST and a $40 permit fee. If the permit is refused, the Ministry may offer it to others on a declining bid basis.

FOR LAND IN:

SOUTH REGION
FOR SALE: 142 and 143

MAIL OR DELIVER TENDERS TO:
SWIFT CURRENT REGIONAL OFFICE
[illegible] CHAPLIN STREET
SWIFT CURRENT, SK S9H 4G3

NORTHEAST REGION
FOR SALE: 276, 311, 333, 428, 496, 498 and 500

MAIL OR DELIVER TENDERS TO:
TISDALE REGIONAL OFFICE
BOX 1480
1100 – 99TH STREET
TISDALE, SK S0E 1T0

NORTHWEST REGION
FOR SALE: 234, 236, 323, and 500

MAIL OR DELIVER TENDERS TO:
NORTH BATTLEFORD REGIONAL OFFICE
1192 – 102ND STREET
NORTH BATTLEFORD, SK S9A 1E9

Public opening of tender bids or bids will be held at 1:30 p.m. [illegible], 2012 at the above locations

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
	PETER ROBERTS (306) 778-8292			
142	(NW) 5-18-29-3	256	C	$127,850.00
	SW 5-18-29-3			
	Value of four sandgravel gas well leases plus other access leases located in place			
	JESSICA WILLIAMS (306) 778-8292			
143	NE 31-17-14-3	160	F.G.W	$38,000.00
	SW 30-17-14-3			
	SE 31-17-14-3			
	Water is shallow well and windmill on NE			

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
	KAREN SMITH – (306) 878-8882			
150	NW 11-10-3 W2	160	C	$75,000.00
153	NW 17-16-2-2	160	C, A	$51,700.00
153	(NW 19-16-2-2	196	C, W	$77,100.00
	SW 19-16-2-2)			
278	NW 29-21-10-2	50	D, A	$13,500.00
	Possibility of a road allowance with water access			

CODES: A – Arable Land; B – Buildings; C – Cultivated; F – Fencing; G – Grazing; GS – Grain Storage; H – Hay; I – Irrigation; LA – Living Accommodation; N – Natural Feature; R – Road Closing; S – Sloughs; CP – Survey Corner Post; T – Timber Included in Valuation; W – Water; Z – Tenders; "Other" – "to be added as a code"

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
	DAVID JAWK - (306) 878-8838			
331	NE-21-34-32-1	80	H	$16,400.00
336	SE-14-36-07-2	160	G	$25,000.00
335	SW-10-35-05-2	161	G/A	$25,300.00
426	SE-36-43-11-2	160	H	$24,700.00
	TIM FIRST - (306) 783-1771			
426	NE-26-43-10-2	140	G	$24,700.00
468	SW-17-54-18-2	160	H	$45,500.00
	Timber value included in price			
490	NW-3-55-18-2	159	G	$59,100.00
520	N1/2-7-62-24-2 S1/2-7-62-24-2 SW-18-63-24-2 SE-12-52-25-2	953	G/F/W	$320,800.00
	FRACEY CHASSEN - (306) 445-7662			
284	NW-30-26-05-3	160	C	$44,200.00
	Does not include bins			
284	SW-31-26-05-3	160	C	$55,200.00
	Does not include bins			
284	NW-1-30-07-3	160	H	$35,300.00
	Non-Irrigable. Purchaser saves harmless the Crown from any and all damages that have occurred or may occur as a result of the operation of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project			
284	NW-6-30-07-3	158	H	$61,900.00
	Non-Irrigable. Purchaser saves harmless the Crown from any and all damages that have occurred or may occur as a result of the operation of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project			

R.M.	Land Description	Acres	Codes	Est Mkt
284	NW-16-30-07-3	154	H	$70,100.00
	Non-Irrigable. Purchaser saves harmless the Crown from any and all damages that have occurred or may occur as a result of the operation of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project			
284	SE-15-30-07-3	150	H	$67,300.00
	Non-Irrigable. Purchaser saves harmless the Crown from any and all damages that have occurred or may occur as a result of the operation of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project			
284	NE-31-20-05-3 NW-36-29-06-3	318	G/W/F	$13,900.00
	Non-Irrigable. Purchaser saves harmless the Crown from any and all damages that have occurred or may occur as a result of the operation of the South Saskatchewan River Irrigation Project			
286	NW-4-30-17-3	160	C	$51,400.00
366	SW-4-30-17-3	158	C	$57,100.00
376	NW-2-37-16-3	161	C/S	$42,000.00
	Does not include bins			
378	NW-11-37-18-3 SW-11-37-18-3	316	G/W/F	$85,800.00
	TREVA AYRESON - (306) 442-2626			
326	SE-24-36-07-3	160	A/C	$55,700.00
	Access limited to adjoining land or to undeveloped road allowance			

TENDER TO PURCHASE PROVINCIAL LAND

Name (in full, first initials) _____

_____

(Complete mailing address including postal code) _____ (Phone) _____

Tender

(Tender submit a tender on the following land)

Tender #	Section Quarter Section or Aforesaid Unit	Tender
____	_____	$ _____
____	_____	$ _____
____	_____	$ _____
____	_____	$ _____

Deposit

Enclosed is a certified cheque, money order or bank draft for $ _____ representing a deposit of ten per cent (10 %) of my total tender.

My G.S.T. Registration Number is _____

(Individuals who do not have a G.S.T. Registration Number will be required to pay G.S.T. on the purchase)

I hereby submit the above tender to purchase provincial land, subject to the conditions listed in the tender ad, which I have read and understand.

_____ (Date)

_____ (Signature)

Developing agronomic practices for small potato production in Saskatchewan

With health-conscious consumers moving away from traditional fried and processed potato products, Saskatchewan's potato producers have an opportunity to expand into small potato production.

Small potatoes – often called "creamers" – are harvested when they reach 20 to 40 mm in diameter (although small potatoes destined for the European market can reach 50 mm). In order to successfully grow small potatoes, and yet maximize yields, producers need to use superior cultivars and adopt specific agronomic practices. It is not quite as simple as planting commercial potato varieties and harvesting them early.

The Agriculture Development Fund supported a series of studies at the Canada-Saskatchewan Irrigation Diversification Centre in 2007-2009 with the objective of finding (i) the best small potato germplasm and developing cost-effective and cultivar-specific agronomic practices for producing small potatoes, and (ii) determining the potential for producing small potatoes from commercial table potato cultivars under irrigation.

The researchers were able to test the small potato yields of 19 small potato clones developed by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Lethbridge Research Centre (AAFC), four private small potato cultivars, as well as three commercial and standard table cultivars.

Of the AAFC clones that were tested, CV96044-3 showed considerable promise. This is a high yielding clone with a potential marketable yield of 10 tonnes per hectare. Clone CV96044-3 is expected to be released shortly as AAFC's first 'low glycemic index' potato. Of the private cultivars, Baby Boomer, Piccolo, and Operle produced over 20 tonnes per hectare marketable yield.

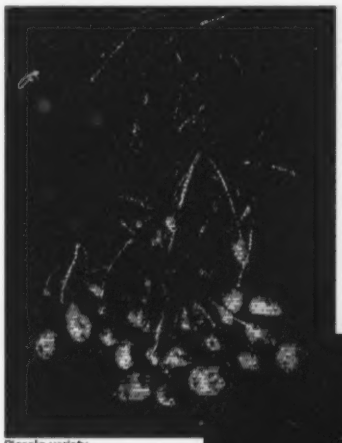
Small potato crops are top-killed prematurely to stop the tubers from growing too large. This is usually done when two tubers per hill reach the target size. Optimal yields were achieved by top-killing the plants at 10 weeks after planting. The researchers found that delaying top-kill by one week had no effect on marketable yield, but did increase the yield of over-sized potatoes. The researchers also looked into which top-kill method (flailing followed by desiccation or desiccation alone) produced the best results. They found that, in most cases, both methods produced similar marketable yields, but that desiccation alone produced more over-sized potatoes. The flailing/desiccation combination is the recommended option since flailing stops the tubers from growing any larger, while desiccation promotes tuber skin set.

In terms of agronomic practices, the studies showed that larger seed-tubers and closer seed-piece spacing increased yield, but decreased tuber size. The optimal nitrogen application rate for commercial and small potato cultivars is between 200 and 300 kilograms per hectare; anything more depressed both marketable and over-sized yields.

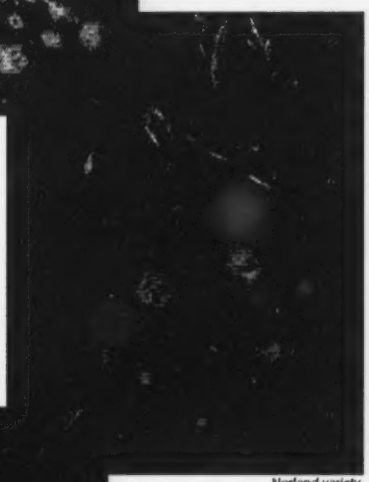
Of the commercial potato cultivars examined, the Norland and AC Peregrine varieties appeared to be the best suited to producing small potatoes. The crops were grown using standard industry practices except that the seed-pieces were placed closer together (15 to 20 cm apart) and top-killed earlier than normal. Under those conditions, Norland produced an average of seven tonnes per hectare small potatoes and 18 tonnes per hectare of table grade potatoes. AC Peregrine produced an average of eight tonnes per hectare small potatoes and 14 tonnes per hectare of table grade potatoes. This shows that AC Peregrine and Norland potatoes can be successfully grown for both small and table potato markets.

The Agriculture Development Fund provides funding to institutions, companies and industry organizations to help them carry out research, development and value-added activities in the agriculture and agri-food sector. The results produce new knowledge, information and choices in technologies, techniques and varieties for farmers, ranchers, processors and input suppliers, to improve the competitiveness of Saskatchewan's agriculture sector.

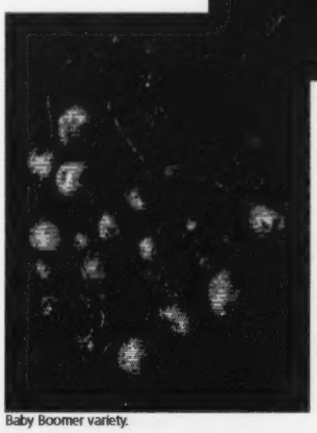
In 2012, the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture committed nearly $11.8 million in new funding for 60 ADF research projects.



Piccolo variety.



Norland variety.



Baby Boomer variety.

Saskatchewan Pastures Program 2011 grazing season in review

Dale Gross, PAg
Manager, Saskatchewan Pastures Program
Lands Branch

and

Heather Gwillim
Correspondence Writer
Lands Branch

The Saskatchewan Pastures Program (SPP) offers supplemental grazing to Saskatchewan livestock producers and promotes environmental and agricultural sustainability of marginal Crown lands. Forage supply in 2011-12 was good to excellent in nearly all pastures across the province, due to unprecedented growing season precipitation in the last two years and to the high priority placed by pasture managers on prudent range management.

Specifically in the 2011 grazing season, there was an overall increase from last year in patron accounts, with a total of 113,971 animals accepted. There was also an increase in predation over the last year, but overall losses still trended downwards.

An increase in SPP grazing fees is planned for the 2012 grazing season. Presently, the program is subsidized annually by approximately $2 million in oil and gas revenues. For the 2012-13 grazing season, grazing fees will be increased by $0.07 per cow per day, $5.00 per calf per season and all other fees increased proportionately. The program will continue to operate with no financial return to the government for the use of the land. This increase will move SPP rates closer to those being charged for similar grazing on private lands.

Revenue from these proposed changes will be routed back into the operation and maintenance of the pastures. Changes will permit maintenance and improvement of current infrastructure through replacement fencing and corrals, new dugout constructions and forage rejuvenation among other projects.

Water supply is good to abundant in almost all pastures throughout the province. Approximately 21 kilometres of pipelines were developed or expanded to provide new water sources for livestock in underused areas of the pastures. Predation on livestock increased in 2011-12 compared to previous years.

Excess moisture was a major concern leading up to and during the first half of the grazing season. There were several informal requests for emergency grazing in provincial pastures for producers with flooded land. A plan, process and forms were drafted to accommodate these emergency applicants to the program. Management of pastures was severely affected by excess moisture conditions in many locations, especially in the south and northwest regions. There were delays in the intake of livestock in several pastures in the south region due to the poor conditions of wet roads. Pasture managers and riders at these locations went above and beyond the call of duty to keep animals healthy and themselves safe in these difficult and long-lasting conditions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact Ministry of Agriculture Regional SPP Managers in Tisdale at (306) 878-8815; North Battleford at (306) 446-7469 or Swift Current at (306) 778-8206; or
- Visit the Ministry website at www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca.

ON THE WEB

Grain Marketing in 2012

The Marketing Freedom for Grain Farmers Act took effect on Dec. 15, 2011. This means that farmers can now forward contract their wheat and barley for delivery after July 31, 2012. The Canadian Wheat Board's single-desk monopoly ends on July 31, 2012, and as of Aug. 1, 2012, wheat and barley producers in Saskatchewan will be able to sell their grain on the open market or through the Canadian Wheat Board.

The Ministry of Agriculture created a new section on our website dedicated to helping you make a smooth transition to marketing in the new system.

For more information

- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/grain-marketing.

Market Trends

The Ministry is pleased to offer you Market Trends, a weekly snapshot of commodity prices. This helpful tool can be used to gauge market trends or as a check against local market prices in relation to the provincial average.

For more information

- Visit www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/MarketTrends.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week reminds producers to plan farm safety

Having a farm safety plan can help your bottom line.

Farm Credit Canada's (FCC) 2011 Farm Safety Survey showed that 85 per cent of Canadian producers understand the importance of making safety a business priority – to prevent financial loss due to incidents, protect family members and keep employees safe.

The FCC Safety Survey also showed that only one in 10 producers have a written farm safety plan.

Canadian Agricultural Safety Week will run from March 11 – 17 and focuses on a three-year theme of Plan, Farm and Safety. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture (CFA) and Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) deliver Agricultural Safety Week in partnership with FCC and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada through the Growing Forward federal-provincial initiative.

"The Plan, Farm and Safety theme has been a catalyst in helping Canadian producers gain a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of safety as part of their overall business planning," said Ron Bonnett, CFA President.

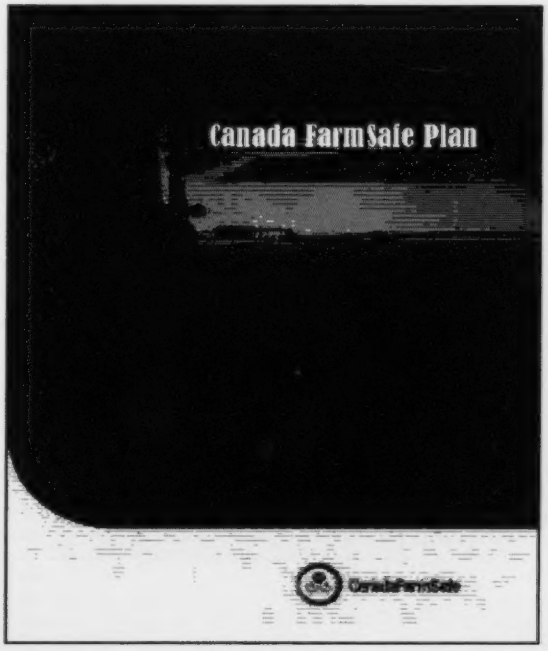
"As producers are more exposed to the value of risk management, it's easier to make the connection between good safety practices and achieving their business goals," said Rémi Lemoine, Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of FCC.

In addition to Agricultural Safety Week, CASA is offering producers the Canada FarmSafe Plan, a straightforward guide to planning farm safety. This new guide will be featured as part of Canadian Agricultural Safety Week.

"To help producers build and implement a written farm safety plan, CASA developed a new farm management tool called the Canada FarmSafe Plan," said Marcel Hacault, Executive Director of CASA. "This resource is flexible enough to be used by any sector in any province and can easily be customized to each producer's specific operation."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.planfarmsafety.ca; or
- Take the FCC Farm Safety Quiz between March 1 and 31 to rate your farm safety knowledge at www.fcc-fac.ca/en/aboutus/Responsibility/farmsafety_e.asp.



THINGS TO REMEMBER WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS

Handling farm chemicals can be a delicate job and if not handled correctly, it can have very serious consequences to your health and those around you.

Chemicals like herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, solvents, anhydrous ammonia and fertilizers can enter the body through the skin, eyes and respiratory tract. You may react immediately to some chemicals, while other chemicals can cause illnesses many years later. How badly you react will depend on the type of chemical and the degree of exposure.

Symptoms of exposure may include:

- Headache, blurry vision
- Nausea
- Skin rashes and irritation
- Burns
- Burning eyes
- Dizziness and disorientation
- Stomach cramps
- Trouble breathing, lung irritations

If you notice any of these symptoms after being exposed to chemicals, seek immediate medical attention.

A farm-based Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) is an ideal way to help protect you and your employees. This hazard communication system starts with making an inventory of all farm chemicals on site.

The next step is to find the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) from the chemical supplier that provide information on the characteristics of each chemical or compound; the risks the chemical poses to people; and, the safe handling guidance and first aid treatment information for exposure.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Visit www.lrws.gov.sk.ca/ohs; or
- Call the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Office, toll-free at 1-800-567-7233.

Manage risks with Saskatchewan Crop Insurance

Manage risk as well as you manage your farm by reviewing and selecting your 2012 Crop Insurance coverage with the Saskatchewan Crop Insurance Corporation (SCIC).

The deadline to apply, reinstate, cancel or make changes to your 2012 Crop Insurance contract is March 31, 2012. Please remember, Insurance selections made in 2011 will remain active unless you contact SCIC by this date.

SCIC encourages producers to speak to their local Crop Insurance office to learn how to tailor coverage to their operation and learn more about enhancements made this year. The Crop Insurance Program offers a variety of coverage levels, price options and program options, such as the Diversification Option, Pedigreed Seed Option and Crop Averaging Program.

Producers currently enrolled in the program will soon receive their insurance packages in the mail. These packages have been simplified to include only the information needed to make your insurance decisions.

2012 Program Overview: This reference brochure highlights changes to the 2012 Crop Insurance Program. It also contains additional background information, such as insured crop prices.

Confirmation of Insurance: This document lists current insurance selections on your contract, including price options, coverage levels and crops that are selected for insurance.

Coverage Detail form: This document indicates yield coverage, dollar coverage per acre and premium per acre in different coverage levels (50, 60, 70 or 80 per cent) for your individual operation.

SCIC also publishes *Your Completed Guide to Understanding Crop Insurance*, a reference guide containing comprehensive details about Crop Insurance Program components. While this is not included in the package, it is available by contacting your local Crop Insurance office.

If you wish to make changes to your Crop Insurance coverage, please contact your local Crop Insurance office or call 1-888-935-0000. Fillable forms available online at www.saskcropinsurance.com can be completed and then submitted to SCIC. Producers also have the ability to complete the majority of insurance selections online through CropConnect, a secure online portal.

Land additions or deletions should also be reported as soon as possible to SCIC. These acres may not be eligible for insurance if damage occurs before you notify SCIC.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact the nearest Crop Insurance office;
- Call 1-888-935-0000; or
- Visit www.saskcropinsurance.com.

GOOD PLANNING IS GOOD BUSINESS

by Cyril Laforge, PAg
Farm Business Management Specialist
Regional Services Branch

Good managers understand that planning is a key component of successful businesses.

Roger and Jeannine Hoey of Crystal Springs, Saskatchewan, wanted to review their path forward before committing to major changes in their farm. They used the Farm Business Development Initiative (FBDI) to hire a consultant and develop a financial management plan with a focus on expansion possibilities.

Getting professional advice on this type of an intricate plan is extremely important. According to Roger and Jeannine, they "wanted to have a written financial plan to see if they were on the right path for their goals."

In addition to the cash incentives offered by the program, the Hoeys praised FBDI because they "received a written plan that met their needs." Under FBDI, each business management practice has a set of guidelines concerning what should be included in a plan.

A solid financial management plan should include: comprehensive and up-to-date financial statements; a review of current goals and objectives of the farm business; and an assessment and identification of options for the farmer to consider. The assessment should consist of financial projections as well as a clear written description of the risks and financial impact to the farm unit if changes were implemented. From here, a plan is created to identify and explain actions as well as timetables and key responsibilities for the application of recommended change options. Finally, the plan also details an outline for monitoring, timing of reports and a process for follow-up.

Regional Farm Business Management Specialists are available to review the specifics of a financial management plan. They can also assist producers, like the Hoeys, with how to participate in FBDI.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Contact your Regional Farm Business Management Specialist; or
- Call the Agriculture Knowledge Centre at 1-866-457-2377.

EVENTS CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	PHONE	INTERNET
March 1, 2012	Alameda Canola Day	Alameda, SK	1-877-241-7041	www.canolacanada.com
March 6, 2012	Cropportunities - Crop production, agronomic and financial information for southwest producers	Swift Current, SK	306-778-8285	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar
March 6, 2012	Farm Succession Planning Workshop	Wadena, SK	306-946-3214	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar
March 7, 2012	Crop Talk - Agronomic and market information for the 2012 growing season	Prince Albert, SK	306-953-2363	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/Calendar
March 8, 2012	Estevan Farmer's Day	Estevan, SK	306 - 634-6422	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar
March 8, 2012	Crop Opportunity & Scott Research Update	Scott, SK	306-446-7475	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar
March 12 - 15, 2012	Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities (SARM) Annual Convention and Tradeshow	Regina, SK	306-787-8091	www.sarm.ca/events
March 13, 2012	Farm Succession Planning Workshop	North Battleford, SK	306-446-7479	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar
March 13 - 14, 2012	Soils and Crop Workshop	Saskatoon, SK	306-694-3575	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar
March 14, 2012	Farm Succession Planning Workshop	Watrous, SK	306-946-3214	www.agriculture.gov.sk.ca/calendar